

Definition of population served:

Eligible infants and toddlers, **from birth to age 3**, are children with disabilities who need early intervention services as identified by a Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team and reflected in the Individualized Family Service Plan because (a) they are experiencing developmental delay equal to or greater than 25 percent as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; communication development; social or emotional development; or adaptive development skills; or (b) they have a diagnosed physical or mental condition which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

Eligible 3, 4 and 5 year olds are those children who have been identified as having a disabling condition as outlined in the State Department of Education’s Alabama Administrative Code. Special Education Services, Chapter 290-8-9 for Alabama’s current special education disability areas. Exceptionalities served include: Developmental Delay, Deaf-Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disabilities, Speech and Language Impairment, Visual Impairment, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Time lines for service:

A referral for children ages birth to 3 must be acted upon within two working days of identification. Within 45 days of receiving the referral, the eligible child is to be evaluated and a meeting is to be held to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan. Federal regulations allow for the initiation of services prior to a complete evaluation and assessment due to an obvious service need and a definite diagnosis of the child’s condition.

The referral-to-placement process for 3- to 5-year-olds is the same as for 6- to 21-year-olds. Upon receipt of a referral, a school system must obtain proper permission, conduct evaluations and determine eligibility for services within 60 calendar days. Once eligibility is determined, the school system must develop an Individualized Education Plan and services must be in place within 30 calendar days.

How to make referrals:

For children birth to 3 years of age, anyone may call for referral information or to find out about resources available via the toll-free Child Find number 1-800-543-3098. For children ages 3-21, please contact your local school system. Referrals may be made at any time during the year.



Developmental Check List for Young Children

This check list is designed to help you record your child’s growth and development. Remember that each child develops at his or her own pace. The age listed on the check list is the time when *most* children *usually* start the activity.

For the child who is less than 2 years old and was born prematurely, subtract the length of prematurity from his or her age. For example: If a 2-month-old baby was born one month early, his or her development should be compared to that of a 1-month-old baby.

If your child is not performing an activity at the age listed, there probably is no need to be concerned. But if your child is late in doing several activities, discuss it with your child’s doctor. This check list is neither designed nor supplied to determine eligibility for Early Intervention services.

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Usual Activities During . . .

1 Month

- Able to raise head from surface when lying on tummy
- Pays attention to someone’s face in his or her direct line of vision
- Moves arms and legs in energetic manner
- Likes to be held and rocked

3 Months

- Eyes follow a moving object
- Able to hold head erect
- Grasps objects when placed in his or her hand
- Babbles

5 Months

- Reaches for and holds objects
- Stands firmly when held
- Stretches out arms to be picked up
- Likes to play peek-a-boo

2 Months

- Smiles and coos
- Rolls part way to side when lying on back
- Grunts and sighs

4 Months

- Holds a rattle for an extended period of time
- Laughs out loud
- Sits supported for short periods of time
- Recognizes bottle and familiar faces

6 Months

- Turns over from back to stomach
- Turns toward sounds
- Sits with a little support (one hand bracing him or her)
- Persistently reaches for objects out of his or her reach
- Listens to own voice
- Crows and squeals
- Reaches for and grasps objects and brings them to mouth
- Holds, sucks or bites cookie or cracker — begins chewing

7 Months

- Can transfer object from one hand to the other
- Can sit for a few minutes without support
- Pats and smiles at image in mirror
- Creeps (pulling body with arms and leg kicks)
- Is shy at first with strangers

9 Months

- Says Ma-ma or Da-da
- Responds to name
- Can stand for a short time holding onto support
- Able to hit two objects together on his or her own
- Copies sounds

11 Months

- Can walk holding onto furniture or sides of crib or playpen
- Can find an object placed under another object

15 Months

- Walks by himself or herself; stops creeping
- Shows wants by pointing and gesturing
- Scribbles on paper after shown
- Begins using a spoon
- Cooperates with dressing

2 Years

- Able to run
- Walks up/down stairs using alternate feet
- Says at least 50 words
- Sometimes uses two-word sentences
- Points to objects in a book

4 Years

- Can repeat a simple six-word sentence
- Can wash hands and face without help
- Can copy a cross
- Can stand on one foot
- Can catch a tossed ball

8 Months

- Can sit steadily for about five minutes
- Crawls (on hands and knees)
- Grasps things with thumb and first two fingers
- Likes to be near parent

10 Months

- Able to pull himself or herself up at side of crib or playpen
- Can drink from a cup when it is held

12 Months

- Waves bye-bye
- Can walk with one hand held
- Says two words besides Ma-ma/Da-da
- Enjoys some solid foods
- Finger-feeds himself or herself
- Likes to have an audience

18 Months

- Can build a tower with three blocks
- Likes to climb and take things apart
- Can say six words
- Tries to put on shoes
- Drinks from cup held in both hands
- Likes to help a parent

3 Years

- Can repeat two numbers in a row
- Knows his or her sex
- Dresses himself or herself except for buttoning
- Can copy a circle
- Can follow two commands of on, under or behind (e.g., "Stand on the rug.")
- Knows most parts of the body
- Jumps lifting both feet off ground
- Can build tower with nine blocks

5 Years

- Can follow three commands
- Can copy a square
- Can skip

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Alabama’s Services
For Young Children
With Disabilities